

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

U. S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
F I L E D

JUN 13 1994

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS : CIVIL ACTION NO. 14430

CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL
BOARD, ET AL,

DEFENDANTS

**MOTION OF DEFENDANTS FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONSOLIDATE
SCHOOLS AND CHANGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE ZONES**

NOW INTO COURT, through undersigned counsel, come the defendants, Catahoula Parish School Board, et al, who respectfully move the Court for an order authorizing them to consolidate schools and change student attendance zones as described hereinbelow and who, in support of such motion, would show as follows:

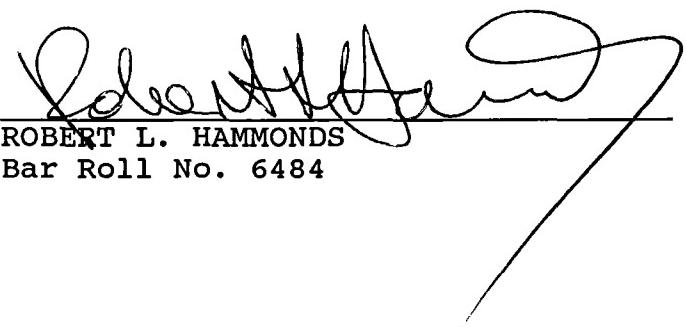
- (1) By decree dated July 29, 1969, this Court approved a school desegregation plan which provided, in part, that all children in grades 1-8 living in Ward 4 would be assigned to Manifest Elementary School and that all children in grades 1-12 living in the Enterprise area would be assigned to Enterprise High School.
- (2) The defendants desire to amend the July 29, 1969 decree of this Court by transferring students in grades 6-8 attending Manifest Elementary School to Harrisonburg Elementary School and by closing Enterprise High School

and transferring students in grades K-8 there to Harrisonburg Elementary School and students in grades 9-12 there to Harrisonburg High School.

- (3) A summarization of the reasons for which the defendants seek authorization to consolidate these schools and to change these student zones may be found in Exhibit A hereto. Further explanation and support for such requests are contained in the memorandum of authorities in support of this motion.
- (4) On March 10, 1994, the requested school consolidations and changes in student attendance zones were forwarded to representatives of the United States of America, plaintiff herein, for their review.
- (5) If approved by the Court, the changes being requested herein will be implemented beginning with the 1994-95 school year.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMMONDS AND SILLS
1111 South Foster Drive, Suite C
P.O. Box 65236
Baton Rouge, LA 70896
(504) 923-3462


ROBERT L. HAMMONDS
Bar Roll No. 6484

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Motion has this day been mailed, postage prepaid, to the United States of America through Nathaniel Douglas, United States Department of Justice, Equal Opportunity Section, P.O. Box 65958, Washington, D.C. 20035-5958.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, this 8th day of JUNE, 1994.


ROBERT L. HAMMONDS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

U. S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
FILED

JUN 13 1994

ROBERT H. SHENWELL, CLERK
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS : CIVIL ACTION NO. 14430

CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL
BOARD, ET AL,

DEFENDANTS

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF DEFENDANTS FOR AUTHORIZATION
TO CONSOLIDATE SCHOOLS AND CHANGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE ZONES**

The defendants, Catahoula Parish School Board, et al, have respectfully moved the Court for an order authorizing them to consolidate schools and change student attendance zones. Defendants seek authorization to reassign students in grades 6-8 living in the Manifest area (Ward 4) from Manifest Elementary School to Harrisonburg Elementary School. In addition, defendants seek to close Enterprise High School (grades K-12) and to assign students in grades K-8 to Harrisonburg Elementary School and students in grades 9-12 to Harrisonburg High School. This memorandum is submitted in support of defendants' motion.

On July 29, 1969, this Court approved a school desegregation plan for Catahoula Parish which has remained largely unchanged since that date. In that plan, all children in grades 1-8 living in the Manifest area (Ward 4) were assigned to Manifest Elementary School and all children in grades 1-12 living in the Enterprise area were assigned to Enterprise High School. For educational,

social, and financial reasons, defendants seek the requested authorization. Each of the proposed changes will be discussed separately hereinbelow.

CLOSURE OF ENTERPRISE HIGH SCHOOL

As of this date, Enterprise High School has only 94 students in grades K-12 (13 grades). Defendant school system is having serious financial difficulties, and it can no longer continue to financially justify the operation of such a small school. The closure of this tiny school would save the school system approximately \$300,000 per year. Harrisonburg Elementary and Harrisonburg High School are the closest schools to Enterprise (approximately 15 miles) and are much closer than the next nearest schools (Jonesville and Sicily Island), which are 25 and 27 miles away, respectively. The consolidation of these schools would also allow the school system to provide the students with a better quality of education through more diversified course offerings, better qualified teachers, and the better peer learning which results from students attending a larger school. There would also be social benefits for the former Enterprise High School students since greater social interaction would be possible in the larger school setting.

REMOVAL OF GRADES 6-8 FROM MANIFEST ELEMENTARY

Students in grades 9-12 living in the Manifest area have been assigned to Harrisonburg High School since long before the federal

court decree of July 29, 1969.¹ The authorization now requested by defendants would permit students in grades 6-8 living in the Manifest area to also attend school in Harrisonburg, which is approximately 10 miles away. This change would result in an approximate savings to the school system of \$50,000 per year. Though less than 50 students would actually be involved in the reassignment, those students would reap the same educational and social benefits previously described for Enterprise High School students going to schools in Harrisonburg.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

In support of its motion, defendants have attached hereto and incorporate herein the following documents:

- (1) Exhibit A -- Summarization of action sought by Board and justification therefor;
- (2) Exhibit B -- Agenda and minutes of School Board meeting of February 1, 1994 showing action taken by School Board;
- (3) Exhibit C -- Catahoula Parish School Board annual financial and statistical reports demonstrating a declining account balance;
- (4) Exhibit D -- Itemization of cost savings effected in requested school consolidation and attendance zone changes;
- (5) Exhibit E -- Current racial breakdowns of student enrollments, by grade, at Manifest Elementary School,

¹ It is believed that high school students residing in the Manifest area began attending Harrisonburg High School in 1945.

Enterprise High School, Harrisonburg Elementary School,
and Harrisonburg High School.

- (6) Exhibit F -- Map detailing current attendance zones.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons described hereinabove, defendants, Catahoula Parish School Board, et al, seek authorization from the Court to close Enterprise High School and assign the students in the Enterprise area to Harrisonburg Elementary and Harrisonburg High School and to reassign the students living in the Manifest area in grades 6-8 to Harrisonburg Elementary School. Such changes will improve course offerings for effected students, will improve opportunities for social interaction for the effected students, will have negligible impact on racial composition of the receiving schools, and will result in substantial savings to the defendants. Defendants respectfully seek such approval, therefore, with the changes to be implemented beginning with the 1994-95 school year.

Respectfully submitted,

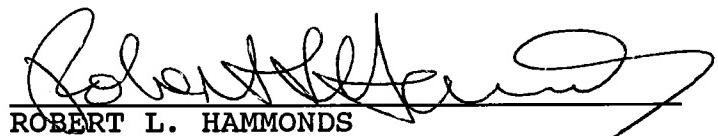
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BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, this 8th day of JUNE, 1994.


ROBERT L. HAMMONDS

RECEIVED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

JUN 13 1994

WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

ROBERT H. SHEMWELL, CLERK
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS : CIVIL ACTION NO. 14430

CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL
BOARD, ET AL,

DEFENDANTS

ORDER

Considering the Motion of Defendants for Authorization to Consolidate Schools and Change Student Attendance Zones;

IT IS ORDERED that the Motion of Defendants for Authorization to Consolidate Schools and Change Student Attendance Zones be, and it is hereby, set for hearing on Tuesday, June 28, 1994, at 1:00 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States of America, plaintiff herein, file its position on such motion with the Court on or before June 20, 1994.

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA, this ____ day of _____, 1994.

JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Action by Board:

1. Close Enterprise High School, grades K-12, and transfer students to Harrisonburg Elementary and Harrisonburg High School.
2. Transfer students in grades 6,7 and 8 of Manifest Elementary to Harrisonburg Elementary.

Justification

1. The Catahoula Parish School Board is facing a looming financial crisis. Financial reserves have gone from \$814,311 in June, 1990 to \$208,802 projected for June, 1994.
2. The savings resulted from the Board action will be approximately \$307,468.
3. Enterprise High School has only 94 students in K-12 (13 grades). It is an economic nightmare to operate a school for this number of students and cannot be financially justified.
4. Students from the Manifest area in grades 9-12 are already assigned to Harrisonburg High School under Federal Court Order. This action will now provide that students in 6-12 of this community attend Harrisonburg Schools.
5. Only one additional bus will be required to transport the grades 6, 7 and 8 Manifest students the required 10 miles. This will result in an approximate savings of \$50,000.
6. Harrisonburg is the nearest community to Enterprise (15 miles). The next nearest communities (schools) to Enterprise are Jonesville and Sicily Island, 25 and 27 miles respectively.
7. The consolidation of the schools of these schools will allow for a better quality of education to be provided these students. A more varied and wider course offering, courses taught by more specialized certified teachers, and better peer learning will result from the students attending a larger school.
8. Greater social interaction among all students will be available.

AGENDA

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

February 1, 1994

1. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 4, 1994 and the special meeting of January 18, 1994.
2. Promulgate the returns of the bond election for School Tax District Number 5 on January 15, 1994.
3. Receive and open bids for the roofing of Jonesville Junior High School.
4. Receive and open bids for the purchase of food and food products for the School Food Service Program.
5. Receive and open bids for agricultural lease of S16T6NR5E.
6. Receive and open bids for the purchase of a freezer for the cafeteria of Harrisonburg Elementary School.
7. Accept the resignation of Chris Price, teacher aide at Sicily Island Elementary, effective January 19, 1994, and employ Eric Price as a replacement, effective January 24, 1994.
8. Consider approving the following recommendations of the Executive Committee for Finance:
 1. Approve General Fund expenditures in excess of \$2,000 for total utility billings paid during January:

Block High - \$3,594.49
Enterprise High - \$2,503.17
Harrisonburg High - \$2,131.37
Martin Jr. High - \$2,027.76
Sicily Island High - \$3,337.64
 2. Approve General Fund expenditure in excess of \$2,000 for additional liability insurance premiums due because of Louisiana experience rating - United Community Insurance Company \$3,555.
 3. Approve Budget Revision #1 for Eisenhower Project Number 2893-5013-11 carryover to 1994 (ESEA Title II).
 4. Approve Budget Revision #1 for Chapter II Project Number 28-93-0013-2 carryover to 1994.
 5. Approve General Fund expenditure in excess of \$2,000 for textbooks for parishwide - \$67,118.
 6. Approve Adult Education Grant #ABE-13-94 for \$37,531. Funds will be used to purchase Apple computers and Adult Ed Basic Skills Software Programs.
 7. Approve an expenditure in excess of \$2,000 to Multi-Media Associates for 2 sets of Adult Education Basic Skills Software Programs to be paid from Grant #ABE-13-94 funds - \$30,000.
 9. Consider taking any action relevant to the allotment of teachers and/or consolidation of schools for the 1994-95 school year.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD OF THE PARISH OF CATAHOULA STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1994,

The Parish School Board of the Parish of Catahoula, State of Louisiana, met at the Block High School Auditorium, Jonesville Louisiana, on Tuesday, February 1, 1994.

There were present: President Jack Colclasure and Board Members Lillian Aplin, Chester Cooper, W. E. Manning, Dave Mays, Clarence Martin, Donna Neal, Dorothy Watson and James White.

There were absent: None.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Benjamin Sandifer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by James White.

On motion by Lillian Aplin and seconded by Donna Neal and passed unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of January 4, 1994 and the special meeting of January 18, 1994.

On motion by Chester Cooper and seconded by Lillian Aplin and passed unanimously, the Board approved the following resolution:

On motion by James White and seconded by Donna Neal and passed unanimously, bids for the roofing of Jonesville Junior High School were opened and announced to the Board. The bids were as follows:

Kelly Roofing, Jena, LA	\$37,365.00
Brown Industries, Farmerville, LA	36,750.00
Professional Roofing, Deville, LA	38,225.00
Roofing Specialty, Jena, LA	35,900.00

On motion by Donna Neal and seconded by Lillian Aplin and passed unanimously, the above bids were referred to a committee with the authority to accept the low bid. The appointed committee members are Roy Mazique, James White, Dave Mays, W. E. Manning and Benjamin Sandifer.

On motion by Dave Mays and seconded by Clarence Martin and passed unanimously, bids for the purchase of food and food products for the School Food Service Program were opened and announced to the Board. The bids were as follows:

Long's Preferred, Alexandria, LA
Bancroft Paper Company, Natchez, MS
Kraft/IFD, Jackson, MS
Butler Paper Company, Alexandria, LA
Berry Packing, Inc., Bastrop, LA
Sysco Food Services, Jackson, MS
Cash Grocery & Sales Company, Alexandria, LA
Lasco Foods, Bartlett, TN
Lance, Inc., Charlotte, NC
Mapelli, Alexandria, LA

On motion by Chester Cooper and seconded by Lillian Aplin and passed unanimously, the above bids were referred to the School Food Service Committee with the authority to accept the low line item bid.

On motion by Lillian Aplin and seconded by Donna Neal and passed unanimously, bids for the purchase of a freezer for the cafeteria of Harrisonburg Elementary School were opened and announced to the Board. The bids were as follows:

Louisiana Food Service Equipment, Lecompte, LA	\$3,490
Buckelew's, Shreveport, LA	3,528

On motion by James White and seconded by Lillian Aplin and passed unanimously, the Board accepted the bid submitted by Louisiana Food Service Equipment.

On motion by Dorothy Watson and seconded by Clarence Martin and passed unanimously, the Board accepted the resignation of Chris Price, teacher aide at Sicily Island Elementary, effective January 19, 1994, and employed Eric Price as a replacement, effective January 24, 1994.

Board President Jack Colclasure was presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 from students at Central High School, for the December utility billing at Central High School.

On motion by Clarence Martin and seconded by Lillian Aplin and passed unanimously, the Board approved a General Fund expenditure in excess of \$2,000 for total utility billings paid during January:

Block High - \$3,594.49
Enterprise High - \$2,503.17
Harrisonburg High - \$2,131.37
Martin Junior High - \$2,027.76
Sicily Island High - \$3,337.64

On motion by Dorothy Watson and seconded by Dave Mays and passed unanimously, the Board approved a General Fund expenditure in excess of \$2,000 for additional liability insurance premiums due because of Louisiana experience rating - United Community Insurance Company - \$3,555.

On motion by Dave Mays and seconded by Lillian Aplin and passed unanimously, the Board approved Budget Revision #1 for Eisenhower Project Number 2893-5013-11 Carryover to 1994 (ESEA Title II).

On motion by Donna Neal and seconded by Dave Mays and passed unanimously, the Board approved Budget Revision #1 for Chapter II Project Number 28-93-0013-2 Carryover to 1994.

On motion by Chester Cooper and seconded by Lillian Aplin and passed unanimously, the Board approved a General Fund expenditure in excess of \$2,000 for textbooks parishwide - \$67,118.

On motion by Dorothy Watson and seconded by Clarence Martin and passed unanimously, the Board approved an Adult Education Grant #ABE-13-94 for \$37,531. Funds will be used to purchase Apple computers and Adult Ed Basic Skills Software Programs.

On motion by Dave Mays and seconded by Donna Neal and passed unanimously, the Board approved an expenditure in excess of \$2,000 to Multi-Media Associates for 2 sets of Adult Education Basic Skills Software Programs to be paid from Grant #ABE-13-94 funds - \$30,000.

A motion was made by James White and seconded by Chester Cooper, for the allocation of teachers for the 1994-95 school year to remain the same as the 1993-94 school year. An amendment to the motion was made by Dave Mays and seconded by Donna Neal, to transfer students from Enterprise High School, grades K-12, and students from Manifest grades 6-8, to Harrisonburg Elementary and Harrisonburg High Schools for the 1994-95 school year. A roll-call vote was called with Board Members voting as follows:

Dorothy Watson, District #1	YES
Clarence Martin, District #2	YES
Chester Cooper, District #3	NO
Lillian Aplin, District #4	YES
Donna Neal, District #5	YES
Jack Colclasure, District #6	YES
Dave Mays, District #7	YES
W. E. Manning, District #8	NO
James White, District #9	NO

The amendment passed by a vote of 6 to 3.

A roll-call vote was called on the motion as amended with Board Members voting as follows:

Dorothy Watson, District #1	YES
Clarence Martin, District #2	YES
Chester Cooper, District #3	NO
Lillian Aplin, District #4	YES
Donna Neal, District #5	YES
Jack Colclasure, District #6	YES
Dave Mays, District #7	YES
W. E. Manning District #8	NO
James White, District #9	NO

The motion as amended passed by a vote of 6 to 3.

On motion by Dorothy Watson and seconded by Lillian Aplin
and passed unanimously, the Board adjourned.

L. Keith Guice, Secretary

Jack G. Colclasure, President

CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

ANNUAL FINANCIAL & STATISTICAL REPORTS

Year(s)	Ending Balance
1986-'87	\$ 6,211
1987-'88	332,832
1988-'89	674,964
1989-'90	814,311
1990-'91	796,253
1991-'92	621,139
1992-'93	574,168
1993-'94 Budget Projection	208,802

EXHIBIT

D

SITUATION #6:

CLOSE MANIFEST GRADES 6 - 8 - MOVE STUDENTS TO HARRISONBURG SCHOOLS
 CLOSE ENTERPRISE - MOVE STUDENTS TO HARRISONBURG SCHOOLS

CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
 RECAP OF ANTICIPATED SAVINGS

	GENERAL FUND	SALES TAX FUND	LUNCH FUND	CHAPTER 1 FUND	DISTRICT OR OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL SAVINGS
PERSONNEL COSTS SAVINGS PER SCHEDULE	\$246,164	\$17,720	\$34,698	\$9,823	\$4,199	\$312,603
SCHOOL PLANT OVERHEAD SAVINGS		\$38,297				\$38,297
LESS: INCREASED TRANSPORTATION		(\$9,250)				(\$9,250)
	\$275,211	\$17,720	\$34,698	\$9,823	\$4,199	\$341,650

EXHIBIT

E

CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
 CONSOLIDATION SITES ETHNIC BREAKDOWN
 AT OCTOBER 1, 1993 DATA COLLECTION

MANIFEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grade Code	ETHNIC CODES		
	3	5	(Total)
01	0	10	10
02	0	15	15
03	0	8	8
04	0	11	11
05	0	15	15
06	0	21	21
07	1	14	15
08	0	12	12
25 (K)	0	7	7
	1	113	114

ENTERPRISE HIGH SCHOOL

Grade Code	ETHNIC CODES		
	4	5	(Total)
01	0	4	4
02	0	7	7
03	0	7	7
04	0	11	11
05	1	4	5
06	0	5	5
07	0	8	8
08	0	12	12
09	0	5	5
10	0	6	6
11	1	9	10
12	1	6	7
25 (K)	0	5	5
	3	89	92

CONSOLIDATION SITES ETHNIC BREAKDOWN - CONTINUED

HARRISONBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grade Code	3	5	C O D E S (Total)
01	1	15	16
02	3	13	16
03	3	16	19
04	2	15	17
05	0	15	15
06	0	19	19
07	4	19	23
08	7	32	39
25 (K)	4	13	17
	24	157	181

CONSOLIDATION SITES ETHNIC BREAKDOWN - CONTINUED

HARRISONBURG HIGH SCHOOL

ETHNIC CODES

<u>Grade Code</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	(Total)
09	3	34	37
10	5	35	40
11	2	30	32
12	1	26	27
	11	125	136

LAW OFFICES

HAMMONDS & SILLS

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JUN 13 1994
ROBERT H. SHEMWELL, CLERK
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 8, 1994

TELEPHONE (504) 923-3462
LA WATS 800-960-LAWS
FACSIMILE (504) 923-0315

Mr. Robert Shemwell
Clerk of Court
United States District Court
Western District of Louisiana
500 Fannin Street
Shreveport, LA 71101

RE: United States of America v.
Catahoula Parish School Board; Civil
Action No. 14430
Alexandria Division

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-captioned matter, please find enclosed the original and one copy of a motion, memorandum, and proposed order which we would appreciate your filing into the record and forwarding to Judge Scott for his consideration.

The proposed order lists June 28, 1994 at 1:00 P.M. as the date and the time for the hearing on this motion, since same was previously approved by Judge Scott in his minute entry order of June 1, 1994.

If you need anything else in connection with this filing, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT L. HAMMONDS

RLH:lm
Enclosure
cc: Mr. Franz Marshall



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

CASE NO. 14430

JUDGE SCOTT

CASE TITLE: USA V CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

NOTICE OF SETTING OF MOTION(S)

The motion for authorization to consolidate schools and change student attendance zones filed by Defendants on 6/13/94 will be considered by the Court on 6/28/94 at 1:00pm. Any response to said motion is due within FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER SERVICE OF THE MOTION (see ULLR 2.07 W). At the close of the briefing time the record will be submitted to the judge. Responses not timely filed may not be considered by the Court.

ORIGINAL responses and briefs should be mailed for filing to:

CLERK OF COURT
300 Fannin Street, Suite 1167
Shreveport, LA 71101-3083

A COPY should be mailed DIRECTLY to:

HONORABLE NAUMAN S. SCOTT
United States District Judge
P. O. Box 312
Alexandria, LA 71309

Please note the case of HARCON BARGE CO., INC., v.D. & G. BOAT RENTALS, INC., 746 F. 2d 278 (5th Cir., 1984) if post-judgment motions have been filed.

DATED AND SIGNED at Shreveport, Louisiana, on June 13, 1994.

ROBERT H. SHEMWELL, Clerk of Court

By: Celia Gallagher
Deputy Clerk

COPY SENT June 13, 1994

BY: cag

TO: Scott, Law Clerk, Leleux and

USA Skinner, DA Johnson, Douglas, Guice, Wright